

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

December 18, 2014

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Team Talk - Employee Satisfaction Teams

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT,

We heard employees loud and clear in our 2014 employee engagement survey. We all want MoDOT to be a better place to work. I'm excited to announce five new teams that will focus on the areas you told us need the most work. I have five team leaders and senior sponsors to help them, but now I need you. You are the folks that filled out the surveys. You know what you were thinking when you marked the survey the way you did. We need to get that information out of your head and into the hands of these teams to create solid strategies for things we can change, to improve the way you feel about working here at MoDOT.



First, I need volunteers to serve on the teams. We will need 40-60 people statewide. Look at the list below and see if there is something you want to work on. Each team will operate independently, and on its own timeline, but generally over the next four to six months. Team membership will involve participating in several team meetings, some face to face but most by phone or video conference. You will be asked to openly share your experiences and opinions as a MoDOT employee. If you think you have what it takes, send an email or call one of the team leaders listed below. Contact team leads by Dec. 24.

Total Compensation - This team is charged with improving employee satisfaction and understanding regarding salary and benefits. Contact: Jerad Noland 573-406-6548, 573-406-8105 or Jerad.Noland@modot.mo.gov.

Employee Development - This team is charged with ensuring MoDOT employees are aware of all programs and processes that provide opportunities for promotions and leadership development.

Contact: Laurel McKean 816-604-2107 or Laurel.McKean@modot.mo.gov.

One Team MoDOT - This team is charged with building the value of One Team by focusing on effectively communicating with employees so they have the information they want and need. Contact: Todd Grosvenor 573-751-4626 or Todd.Grosvenor@modot.mo.gov.

Use of Resources - This team is charged with increasing the transparency and flexibility of the budgeting process, and developing strategies to improve the effective use of resources. Contact: Karen Yeomans 314-453-5095 or Karen.Yeomans@modot.mo.gov.

Under Representation - This team is charged with improving the numbers of any under-represented demographic group in any job category. Contact: Eric Curtit 573-751-7476, 573-291-5394 or Eric.Curtit@modot.mo.gov.

Don't have time to serve on a team? Then contact the team leader with your SPECIFIC suggestion, idea, or concern that you want them to work on. This isn't the time for more anonymous feedback. We need you to tell us who you are and how to get in touch with you, so the team lead can learn the details of what you're thinking.

Thanks for your help.

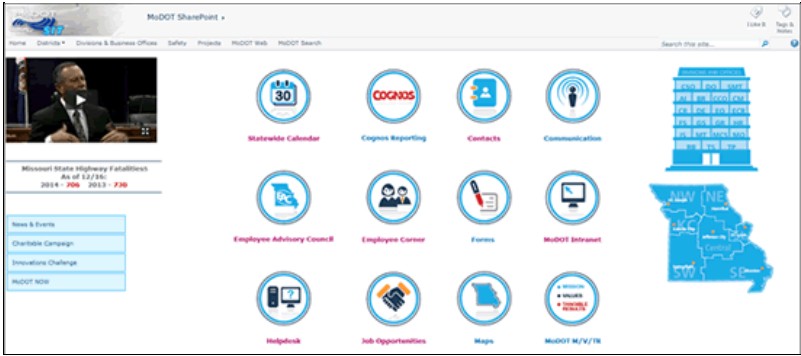
SharePoint Moves Toward Replacing MoDOT Intranet

by Matt Hiebert

SharePoint will be replacing the intranet as MoDOT's primary web-based internal communications tool next spring. The move will eliminate duplicate postings and help focus electronic employee communication.

The transition will be launched in stages starting with the adoption of a standard look and feel for all SharePoint division and district homepages.

The look and feel uses an icon-based approach to navigation. This approach makes the platform "user friendly" on both computers and touch screen devices. Center icons target internal



customers visiting the division or district site. Left-hand navigation is for collaboration within the unit or section.

Representatives from the SharePoint Utilization Team are currently meeting with division and district staff to advise administrators during the

transition.

Scheduled launch date of the new SharePoint intranet homepage is Monday, Jan. 5.

If you have questions, contact me at charles.hiebert@modot.mo.gov.



MoDOT is Committed to Diversity, Workforce Development

by Robert Brendel

Diversity on the jobsite was a central theme of the Missouri Highways and Transportation December meeting held last week at Kansas City’s Union Station.

Lester Woods, MoDOT director of external civil rights, described community roundtable discussions that have been held in Kansas City and St. Louis with local leaders to update them on MoDOT’s disadvantaged business enterprise program, on-the-job training program and a newly proposed contractor workforce program.

“We are committed to working with the minority community, minority and majority contractor associations, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, state and federal officials and residents to facilitate diversity and inclusion in the heavy highway construction industry throughout the state, not only because it is the right thing to do – but because it is smart business,” Commission Chairman Steve Miller said.

That point was further emphasized by guest Mike Hughes of Kansas City’s Sanctuary Workshop, who explained how his organization seeks to provide the unemployed and under-served with critical skills that can lead to job opportunities and job



MoDOT Director of Civil Right, Lester Woods, addresses the Commission on MoDOT's disadvantaged business enterprise program.

retention. He said the Sanctuary Workshop was successful in bringing disadvantaged individuals into the heavy construction industry during construction of the Christopher “Kit” Bond Bridge.

“I applaud your efforts,” MHTC vice chairman Joe Carmichael said. “You do great work, and we’re the beneficiaries, as is society.”

The Commission also heard presentations on the need for additional investment in transportation, including in the area of freight development. Michael Collins, president and CEO of the Port Authority of Kansas City, described efforts to revitalize the port and barge traffic on the Missouri River. Mark Van Loh, director of aviation for Kansas City, explained freight movement through KCI. The Civic Council’s Scott Smith discussed the Heartland Civic Collaborative to create a regional alliance with St. Louis, Des Moines and Omaha to generate economic opportunities for the Midwest – all of which will rely on transportation resources.

The Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City and the Mid-America Regional Council underlined the long-term importance of transportation investment to economic well-being on all levels – from employment opportunities for individuals to a regional freight corridor.

Remember to Check Your Pay Stub

by Suzette Kempker

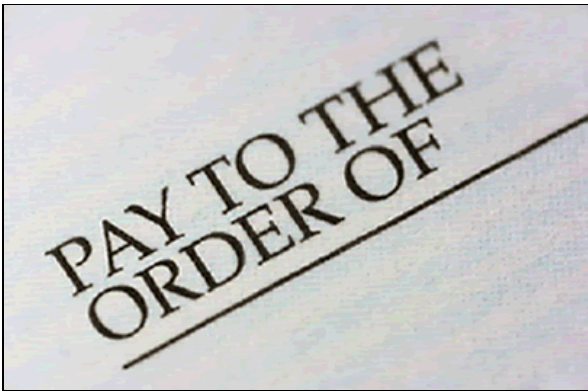
The Financial Services Division reminds employees they should review their electronic check stubs regularly to make sure pay, deductions and leave balances are correct. It’s that time of year when we start seeing changes in our pay checks. Your net pay changes if your salary or deductions (health insurance, Cafeteria Plan, deferred comp, etc.) change. Make sure the amounts are right.

Health insurance premiums are increasing for 2015. The deduction for your premium will also change if you made changes to your plan coverage with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2015. MoDOT health insurance premiums are paid one month in advance. The December premium deductions pay for January coverage. Any changes to your coverage for 2015 will be reflected on the Dec. 15, 2014 paycheck.

Your Jan. 15, 2015 paycheck may change as a result of the any of the following:

Federal and State Taxes

Any changes to the tax brackets for 2015 may apply beginning with this check. (Sometimes tax table changes are not available when payroll runs for the first January check and changes are not applied until the second check in Jan.)



Cafeteria Plan

The amounts you elected for 2015 for Flexible Medical and Dependent Care will be deducted.

If you did not opt out of the Cafeteria Plan for medical, vision, or dental premiums during the enrollment period, the premiums will not be subject to taxes and you will see an administration fee deduction.

Delta Dental and National Vision Administrators

Deductions for added or changed coverage will start with this check.

Missouri State Charitable Campaign

The amount you elected during the Charitable Campaign in October will be deducted starting with this check.

Optional Life Insurance

Employees enrolled in Optional Life Insurance coverage may see a

premium change on the Jan. 15, 2015 check based on the following conditions:

- You were employed before July 31, 2014, enrolled in a multiple of 1x to 6x your annual benefit base rate, and received a salary increase between July 31, 2013 and July 1, 2014, or
- You have reached a milestone birthday in December.

If you have any questions, concerning your coverage please contact your district or division insurance representative or Employee Benefits at 877-863-9406.

If you are enrolled under MOSERS, please contact them toll free at 800-827-1063 for information concerning your benefits.

Check your address too!

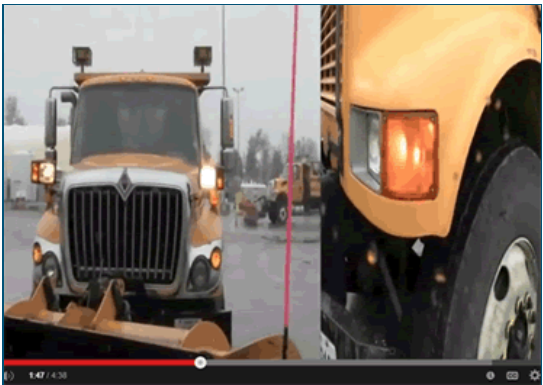
It is important to make sure the address on your electronic check stub is correct. W-2s will be mailed to your home address in January. Make sure the address is current to avoid delays in delivery.

If you have any questions, please contact your district or division payroll representative or Financial Services Payroll section.

Fatality Update



What's Happening



New Back 2 Basics Video

The newest Back 2 Basics safety video can be found online. The video reviews important points to keep employees safe during winter operations, including equipment inspections.

Supervisors should review the video with employees during morning safety discussions prior to winter operations. See the new video located on the comprehensive safety site – [Winter Equipment Inspections](#) and [Winter Operations](#).



MoDOT Charitable Campaign Results

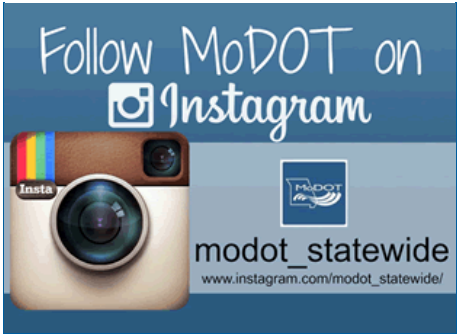
Team MoDOT, Once again you worked together as a team to deliver exceptional results for the 2015 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign. I am excited to report that MoDOT was the lead state agency again for the 8th year in a row. As a team, we contributed \$161,617.78 to the Charitable Campaign. The overall statewide total was \$1,071,000!

Thank you to everyone who donated or coordinated fundraising events throughout the state! This shows what we can accomplish when we pull together as One Team. Great job!

Dave

MoDOT on Instagram

Are you on Instagram? Well now MoDOT is too! You can follow MoDOT at http://instagram.com/modot_statewide/ for beautiful pictures and great safe driving messages. Check it out today!



Chat With The Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger’s blog post. This week he talks about looking back and a vision for the future - [Chat with the Chief](#).



December Deferred Comp Update

In place of the usual deferred compensation update, this month’s video takes a fun twist on a classic holiday tale to remind employees that it’s never too late to take control of your retirement savings. Check it out - [A Deferred Comp Carol](#).



MoDOT to Provide Report on Tolling Interstate 70

Governor Jay Nixon has contacted the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission requesting that MoDOT analyze and provide options for using tolls to improve and expand I-70.

In response to the Governor’s request, Commission Chairman Steve Miller has directed MoDOT staff to immediately prepare the report and to submit it to the Governor by Dec. 31 as requested.



EAC Minutes

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council’s November meeting have been posted on the EAC website at [November 2014 EAC Meeting Minutes](#) If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.

There will be no EAC meeting during the month of December. All concern received will be post in the January meeting minutes.

The EAC would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. Please enjoy your time with your friends and family and if you are traveling please be safe. Thank you again for all you do to make the roads safe for the traveling public.

December Retirements

CD – Cheryl A. Dean - 8 years	NW – Carl R. Wright - 8 years	SW – Jessie J. Eidson - 16 years
CD – Michael A. Ward - 30 years	NW – Mike L. Cline - 9 years	SW – Howard L. Henderson - 23 years
CD – William M. Wade - 28 years	NW – Leonard E. Lowe - 11 years	SW – Rex A. Yearta - 15 years
CD – Charles E. Silvey - 12 years	NE – Norval W. Snider - 10 years	SE – Jo Ann Secoy - 15 years
CD – John E. Hinkle - 19 years	NE – Bobby G. Boyles - 21 years	SE – Catherine Holloway - 9 years
SL – William M. Hampton - 30 years	NE – Michael D. Chidster - 12 years	SE – Leslie P. Snorggrass - 16 years
SL – James K. Schmidt - 31 years	NE – William R. Meyers - 11 years	SE – James L. Young - 13 years
SL – Gregory A. Wilhelm - 31 years	NE – Gary L. Overkamp - 6 years	CO – Herman L. Harris - 21 years
SL – William K. Marshall - 7 years	NE – James D. Burke - 29 years	CO – John F. Mehuys - 14 years
SL – Richard R. Jones - 19 years	KC – Richard G. Turney - 12 years	CO – Jackie Kampeter - 18 years
SL – Johnny W. Johnson - 12 years	KC – Donald E. Jackson - 7 years	CO – Kimberly D. Minnick - 21 years
SL – Catherine A. Cooper - 26 years	KC – Charles L. Foster - 9 years	CO – Lawrence W. Redel - 5 years
SL – Jefre M. Suellentrop - 29 years	KC – Jay A. Ware - 13 years	CO – Bobbie Uballez - 7 years
SW – Eddy R. Lambeth - 16 years	KC – Phyllis J. Edelman - 12 years	CO – Paula F. Brown - 22 years
SW – James W. Tubaugh - 19 years	KC – Edward H. Neil - 7 years	CO – William E. Robinett - 10 years
SW – Joe D. Lakins - 13 years	KC – Daryle Brewster - 31 years	

In Memoriam

Charles Van Os former D3 – Nov. 13	Valerie Day CO – Nov. 25	Larry Peugh former D1 – Dec. 6
Danny Diggs former D1 – Nov. 21	Robert Charles former D5 – Nov. 28	Alice Robinson CO – Dec. 6
Theron McCoy former D3 – Nov. 23	Benjamin Breit former D1 – Dec. 5	Homer Turner former D9 – Dec. 7

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

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Honoring Years of Service

by Tammy Wallace



Earlier this month, 68 Central Office employees were honored at a Service Awards luncheon to celebrate their careers with MoDOT. Keynote speaker Steve Miller, chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, talked about employee’s commitment and professionalism.

“As someone working in the private sector, I had preconceived notions of how state employees worked. Thank you for changing my perceptions and showing me what long-term public service can be. I am so impressed with the commitment and professionalism at MoDOT. As both the commission chair and as a Missourian I salute your dedication and truly appreciate the loyalty you demonstrate as public servants,” said Miller.



Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey emceed the event honoring the employees, who had a combined total of 1,655 years of dedicated service to the Department. Three of those employees, Chief Counsel Rich Tiemeyer, Senior Executive Assistant to the Director Sharon Monroe and Senior Structural Designer Ed Books, celebrated 40 year careers with MoDOT.

Director Nichols also addressed the group saying, “Thank you for your service. The bottom line here is our customers, and they benefit from the work you do. I am very proud of you and thank you for the value you place on safety as part of our team.”



You can view all honoree photos on MoDOT’s flickr site – [Service Awards](#).

Being recognized for 40 years of dedicated service to MoDOT by Director Nichols are: Chief Counsel Rich Tiemeyer (top photo on left), Senior Structural Designer Ed Books (middle photo on left)

and Senior Executive Assistant to the Director Sharon Monroe (bottom photo on left).

All Service Award Honorees

20 Years

Kevin A Jaegers
Kevin W Wegener
Shelly Kay Lewis
Melinda K. Grace-Beasley
Terri Lynne Parker
Diane R Roegge
Leslie Ann Wieberg
Sheri J Lamberson
Todd Lee Bennett
Keith Laird Smith
Mary A Jacobs
Michael Shannon Smith
Donald R Hilt
Gina M Berhorst
Kim Elizabeth Temmen
Stanley Patrick Hoelscher
Tina Velyn Vogt
Matthew J Davis
Keith Joseph Bailey
Melinda Sue Stumpe
Nancy Lynn Abbott
Jeffrey Thomas Payne
Bryan Joseph Heckman
Larry E Scheperle JR
Jacqueline S. Rogers
John Paul Miller

20 Years Continued

Lisa Ann Vieth
Thomas R Honich
Brenda M Braun
Curtis D Evers
Michael Eugene Henderson
Steven Eugene Clark

25 Years

David A Stevenson
Kevin Joseph Raithel
Michael D Harms
Kim R Reid
Shirley Kay Bock
Randy Jane Kelley
Regina "Jeannie" R Wilson
Rickie Jones
Charlene Marie Holdt
Kevin W Mclain
Wilma J Degraffenreid
Harry Frederick Gilmore
Leslie N Fennewald
Randy R Cook
Stacy Dean Mahaney
Timothy Michael Chojnacki
Melissa Rose Lackman

25 Years Continued

Daniel J Smith
Kathleen A Shikles
Machelle Brooks Watkins
Pamela Fay Richter

30 Years

David B Nichols
Edward W Hassinger
Darryl E Grothoff
Charles R Pursley
James E Smith
Shelley J Kloepfel
Timothy Allan Jackson
Angela S. Bonnot
Renate Anna Wilkinson
Sherry K Grannemann

35 Years

Ralph M Rankin
Vernon J Hartman

40 Years

Richard L Tiemeyer
Edward F Books
Sharon M Monroe

A Healthy Holiday Season to You



The end of the year brings parties, friends and lots of food. Americans gain about a pound during the holiday season. It can be hard to resist all the traditional feasts and treats during the holiday.

In this month's Coventry Wellness Newsletter, read tips to help limit weight gain and how to stay safe and healthy during the holidays. There's even a receipt for healthy maple sweet potatoes - [Coventry Wellness Newsletter](#).

EAP - It's There for You

EAP
help. when you need it.

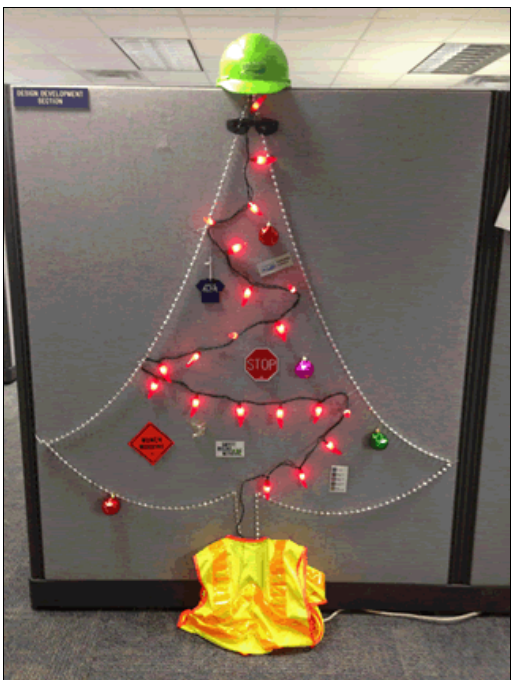
We generally think of the holidays as a joyous, happy period, but for some of us the holidays can also be demanding and a time of financial pressure and exhaustion, which can lead to stress. Being realistic, planning ahead and seeking support can help keep you stress free.

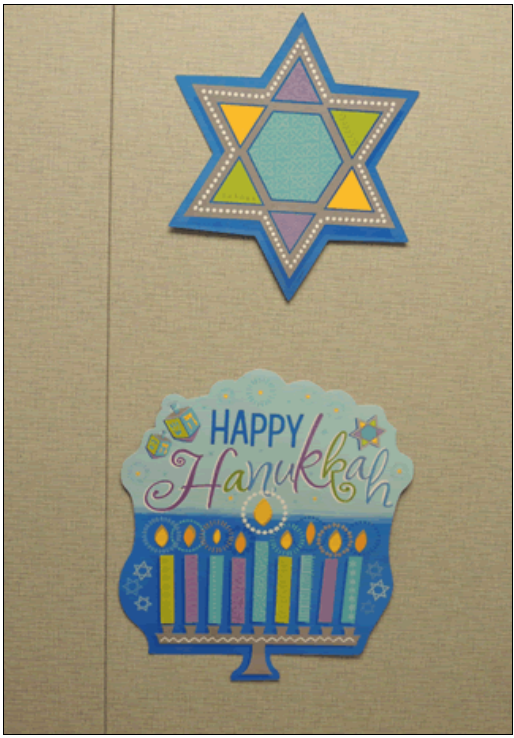
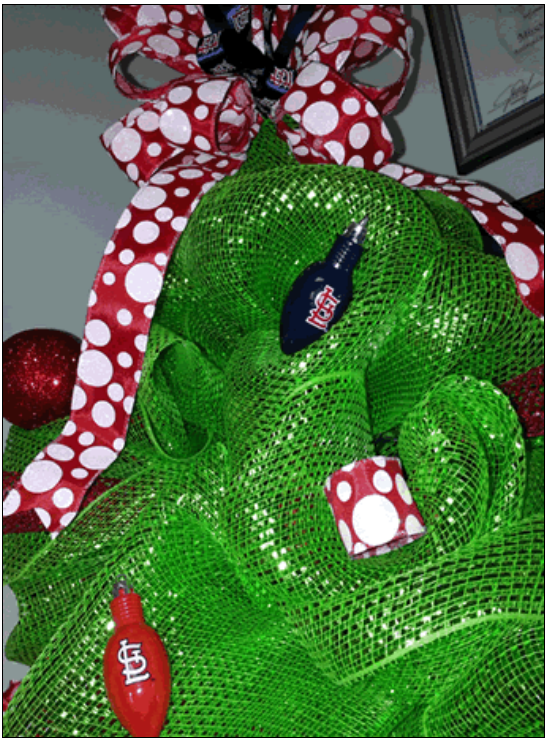
Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) are a confidential service that employers provide to help employees manage personal difficulties. It's a great benefit that is available to you any time 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Click here to

read more about this benefit and tips to stay manage stress during the holidays - [EAP](#)

Central Office Happenings

Here are a few sights of the holiday season captured on camera around the Central Office and the St. Louis District Office for you to enjoy.





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Blueprint and Basketball

If all Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety members were as passionate as ICU nurse Ray Staggs, the Blueprint message would be everywhere, every day, throughout the 20 counties of the Northwest District. Ray works twelve-hour shifts in the ICU and still finds time to devote to spreading the message of the Coalition, in addition to being a full-time husband and father. Ray formerly worked as a trauma nurse and has seen first-hand the results of what might have been avoidable crashes. He has made it his goal to reduce fatalities in our region and volunteers at every opportunity to educate the public on the dangers of distracted driving, impaired driving and unrestrained drivers and passengers.

This year, Ray has worked closely with Bishop LeBlond High School in St. Joseph, Missouri, with the Battle of the Belt program. He assisted them in their seatbelt checks, education programs and continues to plan programs, even though the Battle of the Belt program has ended for this year. Thanks for all you do, Ray!



Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety members Stephanie Malita and Ray Staggs set up a table last Friday night at LeBlond High School's basketball game in St. Joseph.



Ray Staggs, who holds down a full-time job as an ICU nurse at Heartland Hospital in St. Joseph, also painted "buckle up!" messages in the LeBlond High School parking lot and assisted them with their Battle of the Belt efforts this year.



Many young basketball fans at the LeBlond game wanted to try on the Fatal Vision goggles.



They also enjoyed the Buckle Up / Arrive Alive ball toss game during the basketball game.

Maintenance Superintendents Meeting



The maintenance superintendents invited several guests to their regular meeting this month, including the customer service team and Safety and Health Manager Diane Sipes.



A lively discussion was held about ways to improve our customer satisfaction ratings and changes to the customer service database and procedures.

Committee Hosts Christmas Dinner

All year, the Concessions Committee hosts fundraiser's that culminate in their annual Christmas dinner. By contributing to events like ice cream socials and pumpkin carvings, these employees raise the funds to have a catered dinner and door prizes for the district office staff. A big thank you to the four-person team on all their hard work throughout the year that led to this fun time to get together during the hectic holiday season!



District office employees spent some time before the meal relaxing, mingling and chatting.



Desserts were secured early, as there are always favorites that disappear quickly!



HyVee catered the meal with fried chicken, pork loin, mixed veggies, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and delicious rolls.



After a year's worth of hard work and fundraising, the Concessions Committee led the charge down the tasty buffet line.

From the Field



Bethany Senior Maintenance Workers Bryan Craig and Brennen Price took advantage of continuing good weather last week to clean out a ditch on Route O in the northwest corner of Harrison County.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

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Lewis County Hit Hard by Bridge Restrictions



Pictured are crews installing a temporary signal near the North Fabius River bridge on MO 16 west of Monticello in Lewis County to restrict traffic to one lane on the bridge.

North Fabius Bridge on Missouri Route 16 just west of Monticello has been reduced to a one lane bridge with temporary signals in place. Just down the road, the bridge over the Middle Fabius River also on MO 16 has been load posted with a restriction of 15 miles per hour for any trucks over 21 tons.

The North Fabius and Middle Fabius River bridges are 84 years old and during a routine inspection, MoDOT officials found structural deficiencies in these bridges. Every bridge constructed goes through a natural deterioration or aging process, although each bridge is unique in the way it ages. The fact that the bridge is classified under the federal definition as "structurally deficient" does not imply that it is unsafe. A structurally deficient bridge, when left open to traffic, typically requires significant maintenance and repair to remain in service. Structurally deficient bridges are often posted with weight limits to restrict the gross weight of

vehicles using the bridges to less than the maximum weight typically allowed by statute.

Besides these two bridges, we also have bridges that have been impacted by inspections in Scotland, Pike and Macon Counties.

The Ever-Gleam Pompom

As a kid, we remember being fascinated at grandma's house by her vintage aluminum Christmas tree, sitting and watching that things change colors for what seemed like hours.

The Ever-Gleam Pompom aluminum Christmas tree, which is sitting in the main entrance of the Northeast District office, was manufactured by the Aluminum Specialty Company in 1959 and is about the same age as Interstate 70. The tree is in good condition given its age. It is mounted on a revolving platform base and has a rotating color wheel that shines up from the floor making the tree turn four different colors. In a dark room, the colors reflect off the silvery needles onto the walls and ceiling creating a spectacular light show!

The first trees were manufactured by a Chicago company named Modern Coatings in 1957. Hand-made and rather expensive, fetching prices of \$75 and up, which was a LOT of money back then. As the 1960s progressed, tastes changed to earthier, real tree styles and the manufacture of aluminum trees slowed and Ever-Gleam ceased production in 1969, and by the early 1970's aluminum trees were a thing of the past. Appreciation for the



trees has increased in recent years, and they have become very collectible, especially when found complete and in good condition.

Around the District...



Jayne Darley and Julie Neisen, both of Financial Services, are trying out their red and blue exercise balls they brought from home. This will allow them to work on their core muscles while performing their job duties.



Warrenton maintenance employees took time to represent MoDOT in the community's Christmas parade on December 5. It was a little rainy, but they braved it out. Thank you to everyone!

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

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Kansas City District

MoDOT Honored at Annual Keystone Awards Ceremony

MoDOT’s Kansas City District office will need to make room on the mantel after receiving yet another honor from Clay County’s Economic Development Council.

The Council’s annual Keystone Recognition Awards Luncheon was held on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at Harrah’s North Kansas City Hotel. On that day MoDOT received the Keystone Award, which recognizes businesses and agencies that have made significant contributions to Clay County’s economy.

Throughout 2014, MoDOT fabricated more than \$30 million in construction work in Clay County. Just recently, the I-435 and Route 210 widening project was complete in Clay County. The roadway was widened from two to four-lanes between Eldon Road and Route 291. The route is an important freight corridor, which serves multimodal freight hubs in the area.

More road projects are just over the horizon in Clay County. MoDOT is set to begin on the I-35 and Pleasant Valley Road project in early 2015. This project will help to improve I-35 from I-435 to one mile north of Pleasant Valley Road and the I-35 Pleasant Valley interchange.

The District office also received the Keystone Award in 2012 and 2013 for other projects. MoDOT’s District office received the Keystone Award for the Christopher S. Bond Bridge.



Class at Avila Looks at MoDOT Compensation

MoDOT Senior Right of Way Specialist David Bower and his students at Avila University partnered recently with MoDOT Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker to examine employee compensation within the department.

Bower, who’s also an adjunct professor at Avila’s School of Business when he’s not negotiating right of way for MoDOT, taught a Recruitment & Selection directed study at the university this fall. Four senior students, two of whom were international, gained some real-world experience in evaluating solutions to pay discrepancies and other compensation challenges when they delved into MoDOT’s system.

“They took MoDOT’s compensation areas, whittled them down and looked for opportunities to improve,” Bower said. “They produced a final report that went to the department’s senior management team in December. It’s a rare opportunity to do something like this. It gives students exposure to actual workplace challenges and offers MoDOT a fresh perspective.”

Rebekah Capeder, Trenton, Mo., who also is a member of Avila’s women’s basketball team, said the course helped the students understand MoDOT’s challenges and led them to narrow down the most important issue to employees. They examined the employee satisfaction results, select Tracker measures and historical compensation data to help them focus on key areas of concern. The students also weighed the employer’s perspective, and how they value their best employees.

“In our generation . . . you need to do something quick to try to retain them,” Capeder said.



Bower said he was pleased with the support and enthusiastic response from Broeker, and the cooperation between her and the students.

For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager,
Missouri Department of Transportation
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov
P: (816) 607-2027
F: (816) 365-0860

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

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Central District

Looking at 2014 in the Central District

It was an exciting and challenging year for the men and women of the Central District. A ribbon was cut on two new major projects and ground will be broken in December for the last major highway construction project in central Missouri.

Before we begin the trek into 2015, let's take a look back at a few of the top district accomplishments in 2014:

Route 740 (Stadium Boulevard) Project Completed

The \$12.7 million Route 740 project in Columbia was completed months ahead of its scheduled completion date in late summer of this year. This project included central Missouri's first diverging diamond interchange (opened in Oct. 2013), widening Stadium Boulevard from just north of Interstate 70 to south of Broadway and the addition of two lanes to Bernadette Drive from Fairview Road to Beverly Drive.

Osage Route 50 Expansion Completed

The \$25.5 million project to widen 6.6 miles of Route 50 to four lanes from the Route 50/63 junction to just west of Linn was completed in October of this year. This project improved traffic flow and safety by removing several dangerous curves and dangerous access points on that section of Route 50. The project also included construction of a new Maries River bridge. This innovative bridge includes a support structure and girders made of a state-of-the-art concrete mix that is stronger and costs less than traditional materials.

Work Begins on Lafayette Street Project in Jefferson City

In the month of December, work began on the \$20.3 million Lafayette Street interchange project in Jefferson City. This two-year project includes building a new interchange at U.S. Route 50 and Lafayette Street; adding a lane in each direction on the Whitton Expressway from Monroe Street to Lafayette Street and from Lafayette to Clark Avenue; and rehabilitating, replacing or constructing six bridges along the corridor. Due to a severe drop in transportation funding, this is one of the last major highway construction projects in central Missouri.



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Comments & Suggestions
We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at

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Salty Dog Arrives in Time for Winter Operations

by Shaunda White

MoDOT workers will now be able to apply salt brine faster on one of St. Louis’ most traveled routes due to a new piece of truck equipment. The Salty Dog, a tank truck added to the districts fleet last month, enables workers to treat the roads in half the time of a regular plow truck.



The Salty Dog sprays water out on the Normandy maintenance building lot during a training session for workers last month. The truck is assigned for Special Operations within the district.

During a snowstorm, the Salty Dog is able to treat three highway lanes with salt brine simultaneously as opposed to up to two lanes with a regular snowplow truck. In winter operations, it takes 44 gallons of salt brine to treat one lane per mile. With a 5000-gallon brine tank, in one-trip workers can treat the entire 34-miles of I-270 and all of its ramps within the district in both directions.

The Salty Dog is also equipped with high-pressure nozzles, which can assist with bridge flushing operations throughout the district.

“I am very excited to have this new equipment to assist with winter operations. Having the Salty Dog in our district will help free up hundreds of maintenance work hours which in return also saves MoDOT money, said Becky Allmeroth, district maintenance engineer.

Dustin Hertz named October Safety Employee

by Shaunda White

Being the Sunset Hills building safety representative means a lot more to maintenance worker Dustin Kertz than just updating his co-workers each month. Instead, he vows to keep the safety message alive constantly, and his actions have earned him safety recognition for October.

Kertz takes his role as safety representative for his building seriously. He makes it his priority to assure that all of his co-workers understand new safety policies or policy changes. He also provides monthly safety updates to his co-workers, and follows up with newer employees to make sure they completely understand.

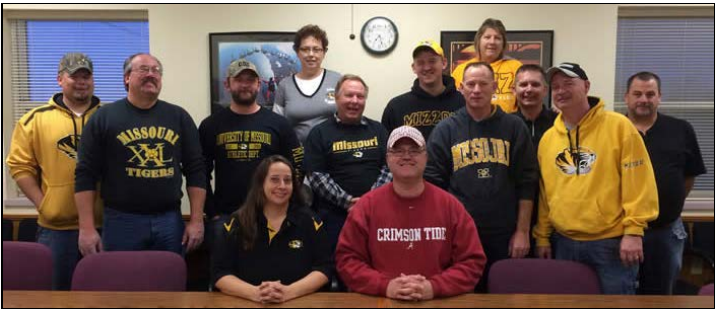
“Dustin is a great mentor. He clearly demonstrates through his actions the importance of safety. He goes above and beyond to help new employees understand the importance of safety,” said Luke Meese, co-worker who nominated Kertz for the safety recognition.

In addition to the recognition, Kertz will receive a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off, recognition at the next district staff meeting and a Safety Employee of the Month certificate.



Dustin Kertz (standing) shares information with his peers from his safety representative meeting.

District Employees Show Their Team Spirit



Festus project office employees show their support for Mizzou and Alabama on Friday, Dec. 5, a day before the championship game.

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Southwest District at Work



MAKING REPAIRS - (upper left) Butler Intermediate Maintenance Worker Derek Loe operates a backhoe to repair a small slide-off at the slope on the southbound I-49 off ramp at Adrian. (Photo/David Mitchell)

TREE TRIMMING - (upper right) Cassville Maintenance Worker Dustin Terry (left) and Cassville Maintenance Crew Leader Jesse Durosette trim trees and brush along Route 76 in Barry County. (Photo/David Mitchell)

NEW PIPE - (lower left) Nevada Maintenance Workers Mike Cash and Duane Ruscha put finishing touches on installation of a new drainage pipe under Route K near Nevada. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Southwest District Crews Testing Canopy Saw

by David Mitchell

Southwest District maintenance crews are trying out a new piece of equipment that makes the winter job of tree trimming safer and more cost effective.

Crews in the Southwest, Central and Southeast districts are testing an all-terrain tree trimmer made by Jarraff Industries.

Central Office is paying for each district to rent the machine for two months.

Tree trimming is a normal winter maintenance activity, says Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Bob Becker.

“Opening the canopy over the roadway lets the sun get through, aiding in snow-melting,” said Becker, “and keeps limbs out of the



Southwest District maintenance crews are using a

roadway during wind and ice storms.”

Jarraff arm saw to trim trees on Stone County Route 76 near Reeds Spring. (Photo/David Mitchell)

He says it can also be a dangerous and slow operation. Crews using scissor lifts or bucket trucks are constantly being lifted to reach the brush to be cleared using chainsaws.

“The nice thing about (using the Jarraff saw) is no one is physically cutting, no one is up in the air,” said Becker.

The saw operator is in a cab, remotely operating a circular saw at the end of an arm and driving the vehicle along the highway.

In addition to safety, Becker says the operation is also faster. Crews can cover up to a mile and a half a day with the arm saw as opposed to about a half a mile a day using a bucket truck.

Renting the equipment is also a benefit.

“By renting we always have a good piece of equipment and it doesn’t sit around unused for six months out of the year,” says Becker.

Central Office maintenance staff got the idea from the Ohio Department of Transportation while attending a multi-state meeting recently.

“We’ll evaluate the equipment and cost,” Becker said, “but our initial reaction is we’ll do this again next year.”

Southwest District Partners with Schools, Hopes to Inspire Would-Be Engineers

by Jennifer Williams



Senior Customer Service Representative Becky Walsh helps a student at Springfield's Hickory Hills Middle School participating in an egg-drop project. (Photo/Angela Eden)

Southwest District Management Team members have recently voiced their desire to increase the District’s engagement with schools and colleges. The District has attended events across the 21 county area for many years, but never coordinated this activity or actively sought to increase the amount of outreach work undertaken.

Staff from Customer Relations and Human Resources met with colleagues at Springfield Public Schools, and teamed up to join the Partners in Education program. The program has allowed the District to work with many schools to help support their science and math curriculum through activities such as practical workshops and academic lectures.

The District is also partnering with SPS in their Project Lead the Way pre-engineering program, supporting the aspirations of over 400 potential engineers in the area.

In addition to the partnership with SPS, staff are reaching out to schools and colleges across the District to offer a range of practical activities and skill workshops to support their daily lessons and career development days.

A recent event at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch School gave the boys a chance to learn about engineering, maintenance, and to investigate the different types and costs of aggregates used to create and maintain our roads. School groups have also enjoyed site visits to MoDOT offices to meet with staff and learn more about engineering.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southeast District

Congrats to the SE District Innovations Showcase Winners!



On Dec. 11, Innovations Challenge participants put their ideas and designs to the test at the SE District's Innovations showcase.

Eighteen teams were named SE District winners and will receive \$75 per person or a maximum of \$450 per team.

Congratulations to the following SE Innovations showcase winners:

- Roadside Obstacle Marker: Shawn Shipley, Chasten Rogers, Andy Boyd, Luke Cooley, Will Scharnhorst, Jeff Strong, Dillan Collins and Kody Decker
- Materials Load Indicator: Jason Norris and Greg Buckner
- Sign Tailgate: Mike Arnold and Reggie Null
- Winter Operations Heated Windshield: Kelly Smith and Lonnie Chambers
- Spare Tire/Road Sign Hauler: Rick Russell, Carl Francis and Ron Rehkop
- Pedestal Utility Markers: Daniel Lacey
- Guard Cable Tool: Josh Wessel
- Minor Road Project Criteria: Dave Wyman, Joe Killian and Benji Philpot
- Safety Incentive Program: Stan Johnson, Jeff Johnson, Enos Criddle, Chris Rutledge, Matt Seiler and Kirby Woods
- Water Curing Tank: Terry Fields and Ron King
- Rebar Clearance/Deck Thickness Gauge: Buddy Cora
- ADA Improvements Database Utilizing Google Earth: David Peyton and Sheryl Wunderlich
- Multi-use Distributor/Snow Removal Truck: Paul Keena, Jimmy Robinson and Nick Meese
- Gravity Flow Beet Juice/Materials Applicator: Kerry Grogan and Buddy Terrill
- Winter Chemical Loading System: Lonnie Gibbs and Kyle Winch
- Invasive Weed Control on MODOT Right of Way: Mark Aufdenberg
- Replacement Stub Sign Base: Jamie Schaffer
- Modified Destination/Road Closed Flip Sign: Bradley Adams, Randal Ewing, Rick Allen, Casey Johnson and Larry Pierce



Visit www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se/sets/72157649747116436/ to see photos from this year's SE District Innovations Showcase.

Next, a statewide team will take a look at the winners from each district and select the top innovations to compete at the Statewide Innovations Challenge Showcase in spring 2015.

SE District Spreads Holiday Cheer

Whether it's a lunch break sweater competition or a volunteer event that took weeks of work and planning, the SE District is spreading holiday cheer.

Ugly Holiday Sweater Competition

Ugly sweaters recently filled the halls of the SE District office in Sikeston, as employees displayed their interesting and inventive fashion choices.

SE District Regional Counsel John Koenig judged the festive sweaters during lunch, and although it was a tough call, Craig Compas, Sue Sifford and Pam Masterson took the top three prizes.

Photos of the contestants are available at:
www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se.



Click the image above to view photos from the holiday sweater competition.

Christmas Angels

For over 25 years, volunteers from the SE District have helped grant holiday wishes to local families through the Christmas Angels Program.

"The program began with a crockpot of chili and the desire to help at least one child," said MoDOT Transportation Project Designer Jeff Wachter. "The program has continued to grow. It is touching to see such an outpouring of generosity."



Click the image above to view photos from this year's Christmas Angels chili event.

This year, nearly 1,500 orders of chili were sold. Coupled with donations, the profits brought in enough money to help 100 children.

Volunteers work with the Department of Family Services to identify needy children in the area.

"We can't thank the businesses, organizations and individuals enough for their continued support of the Christmas Angels program," said Senior Design Technician Kathy Hixson. "They helped provide holiday wishes to SE Missouri families that otherwise would not have received any gifts."

A complete list of businesses, organizations and individuals that supported this year's Christmas Angels Program is available at:
www.modot.org/southeast.

the MoDOT retirees who continue to help make the event possible.

Thanks again to the MoDOT employees who generously used their leave time to assist, as well as

Upcoming Improvements to Butler County Bridges

The SE District is currently planning to improve three Butler County bridges. Two of the bridges are located on Route 142 over Hart Ditch and Long Slough Ditch. The third bridge is on Route 158 over the drainage ditch located approximately 0.7 miles west of Route BB.

The project will involve replacing the existing bridges over Hart Ditch and the drainage ditch. The bridge over Long Slough Ditch will be replaced with a culvert; grading and paving will also be completed. Acquisition of right-of-way will be minimal and will only be required for the Hart Ditch bridge project. Existing utility lines will be affected on this project.

Construction of the new bridges is expected to begin in summer 2015. Work is expected to be completed in approximately four months, weather permitting. As construction is underway, Route



Click the image above or attend the online meeting at www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings for more information.

142 and Route 158 will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of the bridges for the duration of the work. Property owners within the project limits will have access into their properties during this time.

For more information, please contact Project Manager Pete Berry at (417) 469-6242, Transportation Project Designer Dave Blalock at (573) 472-5295 or 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636). An online meeting is available at: www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings.

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Comments & Suggestions

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